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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0307

April 2, 2015

Honorable Michael Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20591

Dear Mr. Administrator:

As you know, in September 2014, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) altered certain flight departure paths at Sky Harbor International Airport as part of the national Next Generation Air transportation System (NextGen) initiative. Though well-intentioned, these changes have subjected many residents of the greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area to acute levels of aircraft noise. We are also concerned by the lack of appropriate outreach to the affected communities before this decision was made. Accordingly, we strongly urge you to take immediate action to address this serious issue.

In the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Fiscal Year 2015 Omnibus; Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act ("Omnibus"), Congress underscored the significance of this issue to the greater Phoenix area and provided the following direction:


Phoenix departure procedures. - The FAA has been helpful in evaluating measures to address local concerns that have been raised as a result of new departure routes out of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. The FAA is directed to continue to work expeditiously to identify appropriate mitigation measures and to enforce adherence to flight procedures, unless specific flight modifications are necessary for safety purposes, in order to avoid impacts on nearby residential neighborhoods. The FAA is expected to provide a progress report on these measures to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 90 days of enactment of this Act.

In addition, on December 16, 2014, the City of Phoenix wrote to the Federal Aviation Administration requesting that the FAA reverse its September 2014 decision to alter certain flight departure paths and return to those previously in place

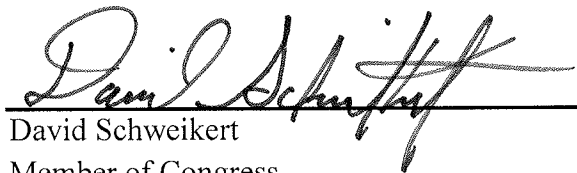
We further note that Arizona's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has formally withdrawn its prior consent to the flight path changes due to the greater-than-anticipated impact on historic properties and likewise requested that "the FAA reopen for consideration the question of the new flight path's effect on historic properties."

In this case, the public, as well as Congress and the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office have spoken. As such, we urge you to work with the City of Phoenix and surrounding communities to resolve what has become an issue of serious concern to many of its residents, whose daily lives have been severely disrupted by acute levels of aircraft noise. In light of these significant concerns, we urge you to make every effort to swiftly implement the directive included in the Omnibus.

Sincerely,



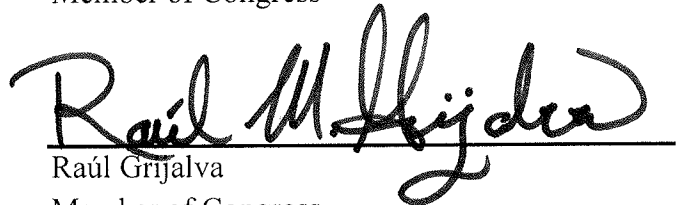
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